

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for estimating a virtual patient's fasting plasma glucose (FPG) level, comprising:

determining the virtual patient's basal hepatic production (FPG_0);

determining the virtual patient's insulin level (I); and

calculating the virtual patient's FPG at time t by solving the differential an equation

$$FPG(t) = FPG_0 / (I * E), \text{ wherein } E \text{ is a value representing efficiency of insulin use;}$$

and

saving at least one value based on the virtual patient's FPG at time t in a computer-readable medium.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein E is scaled such that $E = 1$ in the absence of diabetes and $0 \leq E \leq 1$ in the presence of diabetes.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein for type 2 diabetes, ~~a differential an~~ equation representing E is:

$$E(DF_2) = \left(a + b / \left(1 + (DF_2 / c)^d \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \text{ wherein } \underline{\text{the parameters a, b, c, and d are set to reflect a population that is represented by the virtual patient, and } DF_2 \text{ is a type 2 diabetes feature that represents an incidence of type 2 diabetes for the virtual patient.}}$$

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein

$$DF_2(t) = \left(1 - \exp \left(-a * IGT(\xi_3) / \left(1 + \exp \left(-\frac{(t-b)}{c} \right) \right) \right) \right) * RBMI(BMI) / \xi_2, \text{ wherein } a, b, \text{ and } c \text{ are}$$

constants, IGT is an impaired glucose tolerance value, and $RBMI$ is the a relative risk associated with a person's the virtual patent's body mass index (BMI), and ξ_1 and ξ_3 are random values selected from distributions for randomizing the virtual patient within the population.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the $RBMI$ is represented by:

$$RBMI(BMI) = a + b / \left(1 + e^{-(BMI - c)/d} \right).$$

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein IGT is represented by:

$$IGT(\xi_3) = 2(1 - \xi_3)$$

wherein ξ_3 is a random value designed to cause the occurrence of diabetes in virtual patients to have the same types of interpersonal variations that occur in real people.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said determining said virtual patient's basal hepatic production in type 2 diabetes includes solving the differential an equation $FPG_0(t) = G(t) * H(DF_2(t))$, wherein $G(t)$ represent a basal production in people who do not have diabetes, H represents a is the degree of insulin resistance in a person with diabetes, and DF_2 is a type 2 diabetes feature that represents an incidence of type 2 diabetes for the virtual patient (H).

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, wherein

$H(DF_2(t)) = 1 / \left(\text{MAX} \left[E^2(DF_2(t + a)), b \right] \right)$, and the parameters a and b are set to reflect a population that is represented by the virtual patient.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, wherein

$G(t) = (a + bt^{1.5} - c * t^3 + \Delta_g) / (d - e \exp(-DF_2(t)\xi_2))$, wherein Δ_g represents a variance of basal hepatic production across individuals, the parameters a, b, c, d, and e are set to reflect a population that is represented by the virtual patient, and ξ_2 is a random value selected from a distribution for randomizing the virtual patient within the population.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein

$I(DF_1, DF_2) = H(DF_2) * E(DF_2) / (1 + \exp((DF_1 - a)/b))$, and wherein DF_1 is a type 1 diabetes feature that represents an incidence of type 1 diabetes for the virtual patient, DF_2 is a type 2 diabetes feature that represents an incidence of type 2 diabetes for the virtual patient, H represents a degree

of insulin resistance in a person with diabetes, and the parameters a and b are set to reflect a population that is represented by the virtual patient.

Claims 11-30 (cancelled).

Claim 31 (currently amended): An apparatus for estimating a virtual patient's fasting plasma glucose (FPG) level, the apparatus comprising:

means for determining the virtual patient's basal hepatic production (FPG_0);

means for determining the virtual patient's insulin level (I); and

means for calculating the virtual patient's FPG at time t by solving ~~the differential an~~

equation $FPG(t) = FPG_0 / (I * E)$, wherein E is a value representing efficiency of

insulin use; and

means for saving at least one value based on the virtual patient's FPG at time t .

Claim 32 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein E is scaled such that $E = 1$ in the absence of diabetes and ~~$0 < E < 1$~~ $0 < E < 1$ in the presence of diabetes.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein for type 2 diabetes, a ~~differential an~~ equation representing E is:

$E(DF_2) = \left(a + b / \left(1 + (DF_2 / c)^d \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$, wherein the parameters a, b, c, and d are set to reflect a population that is represented by the virtual patient, and DF_2 is a type 2 diabetes feature that represents an incidence of type 2 diabetes for the virtual patient.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 33,

wherein $DF_2(t) = \left(1 - \exp \left(-a * IGT(\xi_1) / \left(1 + \exp \left(-\frac{(t-b)}{c} \right) \right) \right) \right) * RBMI(BMI) / \xi_2$,

wherein ~~a, b, and c are constants~~, IGT is an impaired glucose tolerance value, and $RBMI$ is the a relative risk associated with a person's the virtual patient's body mass index (BMI), and

ξ_1 and ξ_3 are random values selected from distributions for randomizing the virtual patient within the population.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the *RBMI* is represented by:

$$RBMI_{\text{normal}}(BMI) = a + b / \left(1 + e^{-\frac{RBMI - c}{d}} \right) \quad RBMI(BMI) = a + b / \left(1 + e^{-\frac{(BMI - c)^d}{d}} \right).$$

Claim 36 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 33 34, wherein *IGT* is represented by:
 $IGT(\xi_3) = 2(1 - \xi_3),$

wherein ξ_3 is a random value designed to cause the occurrence of diabetes in virtual patients to have the same types of interpersonal variations that occur in real people.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said means for determining said virtual patient's basal hepatic production in type 2 diabetes includes means for solving ~~the differential an~~ equation $FPG_0(t) = G(t) * H(DF_2(t))$, wherein $G(t)$ represent a basal production in people who do not have diabetes, H represents a ~~is the~~ degree of insulin resistance in a person with diabetes, and DF_2 is a type 2 diabetes feature that represents an incidence of type 2 diabetes for the virtual patient (~~##~~).

Claim 38 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 37, wherein

$H(DF_2(t)) = 1 / \left(\text{MAX} \left[E^2(DF_2(t+a)), b \right] \right)$, and the parameters a and b are set to reflect a population that is represented by the virtual patient.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 37, wherein

$G(t) = (a + bt^{1.5} - c * t^3 + \Delta_g) / \left(d - e \exp(-DF_2(t)\xi_2) \right)$, wherein Δ_g represents a variance of basal hepatic production across individuals, the parameters a, b, c, d, and e are set to reflect a population

that is represented by the virtual patient, and ξ_2 is a random value selected from a distribution for randomizing the virtual patient within the population.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein

$I(DF_1, DF_2) = H(DF_2) * E(DF_2) / (1 + \exp((DF_1 - a)/b))$, and wherein DF_1 is a type 1 diabetes feature that represents an incidence of type 1 diabetes for the virtual patient, DF_2 is a type 2 diabetes feature that represents an incidence of type 2 diabetes for the virtual patient, H represents a degree of insulin resistance in a person with diabetes, and the parameters a and b are set to reflect a population that is represented by the virtual patient.

Claims 41-51 (cancelled).

Claim 52 (currently amended): A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for estimating a virtual patient's fasting plasma glucose (FPG) level, the method comprising:

determining the virtual patient's basal hepatic production (FPG_0);

determining the virtual patient's insulin level (I); and

calculating the virtual patient's FPG at time t by solving the differential ~~an~~ equation

$$FPG(t) = FPG_0 / (I * E), \text{ wherein } E \text{ is a value representing efficiency of insulin use;}$$

and

saving at least one value based on the virtual patient's FPG at time t .

Claims 53-60 (cancelled).

Claim 61 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one value based on the virtual patient's FPG at time t is saved in at least one file in a computer storage device.

Claim 62 (new): The method of claim 3, further comprising:

setting values for the parameters a , b , c , and d by fitting the equation representing E to data for the population according to a least-squares criterion.

Claim 63 (new): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the at least one value based on the virtual patient's FPG at time t is saved to a computer-readable medium.

Claim 64 (new): The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:

means for setting values for the parameters a , b , c , and d by fitting the equation representing E to data for the population according to a least-squares criterion.

Claim 65 (new): The program storage device of claim 52, wherein E is scaled such that $E = 1$ in the absence of diabetes and $0 \leq E < 1$ in the presence of diabetes.

Claim 66 (new): The program storage device of claim 52, wherein for type 2 diabetes, an equation representing E is:

$$E(DF_2) = \left(a + b / \left(1 + (DF_2 / c)^d \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \text{ wherein the parameters } a, b, c, \text{ and } d \text{ are set to reflect a population that is represented by the virtual patient, and } DF_2 \text{ is a type 2 diabetes feature that represents an incidence of type 2 diabetes for the virtual patient.}$$

Claim 67 (new): The program storage device of claim 66, wherein

$$DF_2(t) = \left[1 - \exp \left(-a * IGT(\xi_3) / \left(1 + \exp \left(-\frac{(t-b)}{c} \right) \right) \right) \right] * RBMI(BMI) / \xi_2, \text{ wherein } IGT \text{ is an}$$

impaired glucose tolerance value, $RBMI$ is a relative risk associated with the virtual patient's body mass index (BMI), and ξ_1 and ξ_3 are random values selected from distributions for randomizing the virtual patient within the population.

Claim 68 (new): The program storage device of claim 67, wherein the $RBMI$ is represented by:

$$RBMI(BMI) = a + b / \left(1 + e^{-(BMI-c)/d} \right).$$

Claim 69 (new): The program storage device of claim 67, wherein IGT is represented by:

$$IGT(\xi_3) = 2(1 - \xi_3)$$

wherein ξ_3 is a random value designed to cause the occurrence of diabetes in virtual patients to have the same types of interpersonal variations that occur in real people.

Claim 70 (new): The program storage device of claim 52, wherein said determining said virtual patient's basal hepatic production in type 2 diabetes includes solving an equation $FPG_0(t) = G(t) * H(DF_2(t))$, wherein $G(t)$ represent a basal production in people who do not have diabetes, H represents a degree of insulin resistance in a person with diabetes, and DF_2 is a type 2 diabetes feature that represents an incidence of type 2 diabetes for the virtual patient.

Claim 71 (new): The program storage device of claim 70, The method of claim 7, wherein $H(DF_2(t)) = 1 / \left(\text{MAX} \left[E^2(DF_2(t+a)), b \right] \right)$, and the parameters a and b are set to reflect a population that is represented by the virtual patient.

Claim 72 (new): The program storage device of claim 70, wherein $G(t) = (a + bt^{1.5} - c * t^3 + \Delta_g) / (d - e \exp(-DF_2(t)\xi_2))$, wherein Δ_g represents a variance of basal hepatic production across individuals, the parameters a , b , c , d , and e are set to reflect a population that is represented by the virtual patient, and ξ_2 is a random value selected from a distribution for randomizing the virtual patient within the population.

Claim 73 (new): The program storage device of claim 52, wherein $I(DF_1, DF_2) = H(DF_2) * E(DF_2) / (1 + \exp((DF_1 - a)/b))$, and wherein DF_1 is a type 1 diabetes feature that represents an incidence of type 1 diabetes for the virtual patient, DF_2 is a type 2 diabetes feature that represents an incidence of type 2 diabetes for the virtual patient, H represents a degree of insulin resistance in a person with diabetes, and the parameters a and b are set to reflect a population that is represented by the virtual patient.

Claim 74 (new): The program storage device of claim 52, wherein the at least one value based on the virtual patient's FPG at time t is saved to a computer-readable medium.

Claim 75 (new): The program storage device of claim 52, wherein the method further comprises:

setting values for the parameters a , b , c , and d by fitting the equation representing E to data for the population according to a least-squares criterion.